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(54) Method and apparatus for providing an interactive guide to events available on an information network

(57) Apparatus and methods are provided for implementing an interactive program guide on an information network. A plurality of database pages are communicated over the information network. Each page corresponds to a time slot over which events are available on the network. Schedule data for each event to be included in the interactive guide is inserted into the database page for the time slot during which the event is to be provided. The database pages are transmitted via the information network at a transmission rate selected to enable the recovery of a particular database page within a predetermined acquisition time limit, for

retrieval of schedule data for the time represented by that page. Schedule information for a current time period can be provided in a trickle data stream with future scheduling information provided in a demand data stream. The demand data stream is transmitted at a substantially higher rate than the trickle data stream. Data from the trickle stream is downloaded into memory at the decoder for instantaneous display. Data from the demand data stream is accessible on an as needed basis by retrieving only that data necessary for the display of scheduling information for a desired time slot.

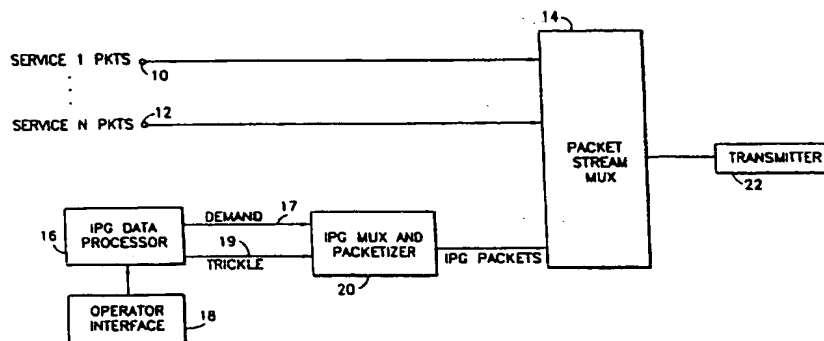


FIG. 1

EP 0 758 833 A3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 11 2851

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL. 6)
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A	* the whole document *	2-13, 15-21, 23-25	
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A	CABLE TV SESSIONS, MONTREUX, JUNE 10 - 15, 1993, no. SYMP. 18, 11 June 1993, POSTES; TELEPHONES ET TELEGRAPHES SUISSES, pages 571-586, XP000379382 BRUGLIERA V: "DIGITAL ON-SCREEN DISPLAY A NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR THE CONSUMER INTERFACE"	1-25	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CL. 6) H04N
A	WO 94 13107 A (DISCOVERY COMMUNICATIONS INC) 9 June 1994 * page 24, line 20 - page 41, line 25 *	1-25	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 20 August 1997	Examiner Greve, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 11 2851

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 20 August 1997	Examiner Greve, M
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